

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 USIE-00 AID-05 EB-07 IOE-00 COME-00

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AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 OMB-01 /113 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8910

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJ: FINAL REPORT ON 69TH SESSION FAO COUNCIL, JULY 12-16, 1976

REF: (A) ROME 11405, (B) ROME 11380, (C) ROME 11365,

(D) ROME 11279

1. FAO COUNCIL ENDED TODAY ON CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE NOTES. COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED WITH QUALIFICATIONS IN BODY OF REPORT GENERAL CONCLUSIONS SUPPORTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA'S PROPOSALS: GRADUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF FAO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES WHILE ENSURING COLLABORATION WITH THE UNDP AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE CONSENSUS, DECENTRALIZATION AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL AND GREATER USE OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, THE \$18.5 MILLION FAO TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM, AND A REVISED APPROPRIATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S REVISED PROGRAM, CL 69/2.

2. CONTENTIOUS ISSUES WERE SET FORTH IN FILL DETAIL IN AGREED

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REPORT OF COUNCIL BY EXPRESSING MAJORITY AND MINORITY VIEWS.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTIOUS ISSUES WERE: IDEA THAT APPROVAL OF

1976/77 TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM WAS EXPERIMENTAL IN NATURE, CARRY OVER OF UNCOMMITTED FUNDS BEYOND THE CURRENT BUDGETARY BIENNIUM, AND THE AMOUNT OF EMPHASIS TO BE PLACED ON 1970 CONSENSUS AND FIELD COORDINATING ROLE OF UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES. ON THIS LATTER POINT FINAL REPORT SPECIFICALLY REFERS TO DECISION OF GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNDP ON THE COHERENCE OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM, THE CONSENSUS AND THE ASSURANCES FROM THE FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND UNDP AMINISTRATOR TO COOPERATE. STATUS OF TCP AND, PARTICULARLY, ANY CHANGES IN FINANCIAL REGULATIONS ARE OF INTERIM NATURE IN THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO BE DECIDED AT 1977 FAO CONFERENCE, PERMITTING OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE SITUATION MORE CAREFULLY OVER THE NEXT 18 MONTHS.

3. DELEGATION SUCCEEDED IN INSERTING U.S. QUALIFICATIONS TO SAOUMA PROPOSALS IN REPORT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME GIVING BASIC SUPPORT TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S PROPOSALS. SAOUMA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S. CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE WHICH SET STAGE FOR MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AND ALLOWED MEETING TO CONCLUDE ON HARMONIOUS NOTE.

4. COMMENT: THE SESSION WAS CLEARLY DOMINATED BY THE NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL, EDOUARD SAOUMA, WHO NOT ONLY INJECTED HIMSELF EITHER OPENLY OR BEHIND THE SCENES INTO EVERY SIGNIFICANT DECISION, AND SOME TRICAL ONES, BUT ALSO SOUGHT AND ACHIEVED A DEGREE OF HARMONY THAT DEPENDED ON DC COOPERATION AND G-77 RESTRAINT. FOR THE CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER 1977, USG WILL HAVE TO PREPARE WELL IN ADVANCE AND COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH OTHER COUNTRIES PAYING MAJOR PART OF FAO BUDGET IF WE WISH TO HAVE STRONG INFLUENCE ON FAO BUDGET AND CONTINUATION OF TCP.  
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